

FOCUS AREAS

- ♦ Access to quality, affordable, safe and culturally inclusive education.
- ♦ Access to quality, affordable and culturally appropriate health and social services.
- ♦ Equitable participation in economic, community and workforce development.
- ♦ Just human and civil rights, including immigrant and refugee justice.



CAPAA'S FUNCTIONS

In order to meet its mission, the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs serves several functions and roles. Among them are:

- ♦ **Research and analysis.** To examine and define AAPI issues and to make recommendations to the governor, legislators, and state agencies with respect to desirable changes in program and law.
- ♦ **Advisory and advocacy.** To advise the Governor, state and local public officials on the development and implementation of comprehensive and coordinated policies, plans, and programs focusing on the special issues and needs of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.
- ♦ **Education.** To educate the AAPI community about laws, programs, and policies that affect its well-being.
- ♦ **Conduit and consultant.** To make government more accessible by serving as a conduit and consultant between AAPI communities and state agencies.
- ♦ **Resource.** To serve as a resource through educational materials, technical assistance, agency referrals, casework, and community forums.



CAPAA

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THE STATE OF WASHINGTON COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS



CAPAA

HISTORY



Due to pervasive discrimination and barriers in accessing government services, a group of local Asian American and Pacific Islander community members met with the Governor in 1971 to examine a broad range of issues facing the population in the

areas of employment, education, social services, community development, immigration, and civil rights. In January 1972, Governor Evans created The State Asian Advisory Council by executive order. On February 26, 1974, the 43rd Washington State Legislature formally created The State of Washington Commission on Asian American Affairs as a state agency. On April 17, 1995, Governor Mike Lowry signed a bill to change the Commission's name to The State of Washington Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA) to include Pacific Islanders.

The CAPAA's 36 year history marks a legacy of advocacy, community education, and outreach, as well as interagency and community collaborations to improve the well-being of the AAPI communities. Among its past and current activities are:

- ◊ Establishes and maintains AAPI organizations and coalitions to address AAPI issues.
- ◊ Organizes and helps coordinate AAPI conferences and community forums to identify, prioritize, and address AAPI issues.
- ◊ Works with state agencies and community organizations to address legislation on a federal and local level.
- ◊ Issues reports on the state of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Washington.
- ◊ Updates communities on legislation and policy making.
- ◊ Serves on committees and task forces providing a voice for the AAPI community.
- ◊ Coordinates statewide APA Heritage Month celebrations in the month of May and assists with APA Legislative Day.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs is committed to cultivating and nurturing relationships among AAPI communities and the state government as well as strengthening relationships between ethnic communities. We respond to the needs of the community by working with the Governor, the state legislature, state agencies, the private sector, and the AAPI communities on issues that concern AAPIs to bring about positive change and long-term solutions. We inform the AAPI community about legislation, policies, and programs that affect their well-being.



ADVISORY BOARD

The Commission has an advisory board made up of 12 Governor-appointed commissioners representing the state's rich diversity. Each commissioner serves a three-year term and may serve for two consecutive terms. Commission meetings are open to the public.



POPULATION

Washington has the fastest growing AAPI population out of the states with a high AAPI percentage. The total number of AAPIs has increased from 110,052 in 1980 to 674,573 in 2010. This rapid growth is partly due to the influx of Southeast Asian refugees and immigrants.

AAPIs constitute over 47 ethnic groups rich in their own cultural traditions, languages, and histories. They enhance cultural diversity and greatly contribute to the social, political and economic makeup of Washington State.

Counties with largest number of the state's total AAPIs in 2010

- King: 353,702 or 52.4% of total state AAPIs
- Pierce: 85,743 or 12.7%
- Snohomish: 84,201 or 12.5%
- Clark: 28,146 or 4.2%
- Kitsap: 23,064 or 3.4%
- Thurston: 21,728 or 3.2%
- Spokane: 18,545 or 2.7%

2010 AAPI population by ethnicity

- Chinese: 94,198 or 14.0% of total state AAPIs
- Filipino: 91,367 or 13.5%
- Vietnamese: 66,575 or 9.9%
- Korean: 62,374 or 9.2%
- Asian Indian: 61,124 or 9.1%
- Japanese: 35,008 or 5.2%
- Samoan: 13,110 or 1.9%
- Guam: 9,746 or 1.4%
- Hawaiian: 5,861 or .9%
- Others: 82,179 or 12.2%
- AAPIs of combined ethnicity: 153,031 or 22.7%

Examples
of AAPI
Languages
and Dialects

Amoy
Bangla
Bengali
Bhojpuri
Bikol
Burmese
Butuanon
Cambodian (Khmer)
Cantonese
Cebuano
Chamorro
Chow-Chew
Dzongkha
English
FaaSamoa
Fijian
French
Gujarati
Hakka
Hangchouese
Hawaiian
Hiligaynon
Hindi-Urdu
Hmong
Ibang
Ilocano
Ilongo
Indonesian
Japanese
Kankayaey
Kannada
Khmumu
Korean
Laotian
Maighali
Malay
Malayalam
Mandarin
Marathi
Mien
Nepalese
Pampongo
Pangasinan
Punjabi
Pushtu
Putonghua
Samoan
Sanskrit
Shanghai
Sinhalese
Sindhi
Soochoese
Tagalog
Tahitian
Taiwanese
Tamil
Telugu
Thai
Tibetan
Toishanese
Tongan
Tulu
Urdu
Vietnamese
Visayan
Waray-Waray
Yao